



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Petersburg National Battlefield
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Commercial Filming

Petersburg National Battlefield is a unit of the National Park Service and administers approximately 2,700 acres in and around the City of Petersburg, Virginia including the Five Forks Battlefield (Dinwiddie County), Poplar Grove National Cemetery, and an area of Hopewell, Virginia where General Ulysses S. Grant made his headquarters during the Siege of Petersburg. It is the policy of the National Park Service to encourage production to the fullest extent possible consistent with the protection of the park resources and ensuring the enjoyment of those resources by the visiting public. A Photography/Filming Permit is required. The application process entails a \$50.00 non-refundable application fee, a possible performance bond (depending on the extent of the shoot), location fees based on the size of the production, and reimbursement of all park costs in monitoring and administering the permit during production.

Our basic responsibility is to protect the cultural and natural resources for which we, the National Park Service, are ultimately responsible, and to avoid conflict with the public's normal use and enjoyment of the parks..

Things We Cannot Do for You

We cannot accommodate a project if:

- Damage to resources is expected which cannot be prevented or mitigated
- Other activities are already planned or expected to occur at the same time and place, and filming or photography would be incompatible
- It involves access to areas normally limited to administrative access or closed for resource protection or safety reasons
- The level of activity within the park is already so high that we would not have staff to assign to work with you
- The project includes portrayal of activities which are not permitted within a recognized park (such as defacing a monument, etc.)
- The production company is unwilling or unable to obtain the necessary insurance
- The production company is unwilling to reimburse NPS for costs or comply with NPS requirement for posting a refundable bond.

Our permits always prohibit:

- loud noise (gunfire, explosions, playback, etc.) between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- landing any aircraft
- nudity
- smoking in buildings or in vegetated areas
- harassment of wildlife or introduction of wildlife captured elsewhere

We do not close parks to the public when filming occurs. We will assign a staff member to assure that there are no conflicts among park uses. Although we allow the public to watch you work, we do NOT advertise when, where, or what filming is occurring in our parks.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Please call to discuss any project that involves stunts, pyrotechnics or special effects, aircraft, children, or construction of sets.

All permits include the requirement that you clean up and restore the site at the end of your use. If your permit includes night work, it will automatically include time the next day for you to send people back to complete clean up during the day.

Normally in a National Park, you cannot cut brush, dig in the ground or move natural features. Digging in the ground of a National Park usually involves environmental review and monitoring by a contract archeologist. But there are creative ways to address that problem. There are also concerns related to our vegetation. There may be too much, or too little, or the wrong kind for your project. There usually are alternative ways to solve those problems as well.

We have created the project clearance review process to efficiently evaluate requests for complex projects which may include temporary set construction, extended use of a site (more than a week), or temporary impact to resources. Projects which involve project clearance review may require the posting of a refundable damage bond. Call for additional information

If your shoot involves fire, you must simulate it by use of appropriate propane equipment. Propane fire equipment is considered a pyrotechnic device under state law. It must be handled by a licensed pyrotechnics technician. A fire safety advisor and a water truck are also needed for any fire or pyrotechnic effect.

Depending on the time of year and location of your filming, you may be required to have a water truck as well. Water trucks should have the proper meter for filling from street hydrants. We can advise you which water district is appropriate.

Public roads through NPS sites are not included in the NPS permit. You are still required to comply with state and county regulations for encroachment, warning signage and traffic control on public roads.

The National Park Service is required to recover all costs associated with permits for filming and photography. Administrative costs including evaluation of the application and processing the permit are mandatory and non-refundable. Site use charges are estimated based on the information you provide in your application. All charges must be paid before work can begin on NPS property. Any additional costs, such as overtime, are posted as they occur. Additional charges must be paid within 7 days of the invoicing.

- Costs associated:

All commercial filming permits and still photography permits are subject to cost recovery and a location fee. No waivers are allowed. The location fee is calculated per day and must be based on the following schedule and is determined by the type of activity (commercial filming versus still photography) and the number of people on park lands associated with the permitted activity. There is no deviation from the schedule.

Commercial Filming/Videos

1 – 2 people, camera & tripod only	\$0/day
1 - 10 people	\$150/day
11 - 30 people	\$250/day
31 - 49 people	\$500/day
Over 50 people	\$750/day

Still Photography

1 - 10 people	\$50/day
11 - 30 people	\$150/day
Over 30 people	\$250/day

Cost Recovery. Cost recovery amounts are based on the actual cost incurred by the park in processing the request, monitoring the activity and rehabilitating or restoring the permitted area.

If your project requires a permit, fill out and submit an application as far in advance as possible. Remember that popular park sites can get busy which can be distracting for your project. You will need to arrange for an insurance certificate to indicate that the U.S. Government, National Park Service is additionally insured on your liability insurance for the shoot. Based on your application, we will write the permit and estimate the costs. You must sign the permit and pay the charges before work can begin on NPS property.